



## **JOB DESCRIPTION: TURNINGPOINTCT PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST**

**Position Title:** TurningPointCT Peer Support Specialist

**Reports to:** Prevention Director, Positive Directions-The Center for Prevention & Counseling

**Job Type:** Full-time (35 hrs/week, excluding lunch)

*Positive Directions–The Center for Prevention and Counseling seeks a dynamic, experienced Peer Support Specialist for the Young Adult E-Engagement Project (better known as TurningPointCT.org). The project’s goal is to support teens and young adults in their search for mental wellness through the TurningPointCT.org website and social media, which provide online peer support and information via a Q&A guide, map, podcast, and more. All aspects of the project are designed, developed & managed by young people with personal experience/interest in mental health and addiction.*

*This position is a hybrid position requiring regular days in the office in Westport, Connecticut as well as time online. Young adults who are certified as peer support specialists (Recovery Support Specialists, Recovery Coaches) are strongly encouraged to apply. Occasional weekend or evening events. Some travel required.*

### **Summary of Position:**

The TurningPointCT Peer Support Specialist uses their lived experience with mental health and/or substance use in conjunction with their training in peer support to serve as an advocate, advisor, trainer and supporter for other young people in CT. The role includes: help the state expand and improve the availability of trained peer support for young people in behavioral health programs; provide direct peer support to young people on a limited basis; and contribute regularly to the TurningPointCT online platforms as a way of reaching young adults in the state.

### **Specific Responsibilities:**

The TurningPointCT Peer Support Specialist shall:

- Provide training, coaching and peer advocacy to DMHAS Young Adult Services (YAS) program staff;
- Provide peer support and advocacy to YAS program clients;
- Outreach to clients of the Department of Children and Families and Court Support Services Department;
- Provide an annual peer support training (e.g., Recovery Coach Academy, Recovery University) for YAS clients and other young adults ready and interested in becoming peer support specialists;

- Provide limited peer support to CT youth and young adults through weekly drop-in hours on TurningPointCT.org social platforms or in person and occasional peer support group sessions as needed;
- Serve on identified state and young adult advisory boards (e.g., DMHAS Recovery Affairs, YLP and CT STAY STRONG) to provide input, share resources, coordinate and cross-pollinate across initiatives, and identify content areas for the TurningPointCT platform and social media;
- Provide input into state, DMHAS and Positive Directions efforts to develop policies and systems to strengthen peer support, including involvement with legislative workgroups related to peer support;
- Participate in weekly team meetings to share statewide young adult initiatives with the project staff;
- Create weekly blog posts for TurningPointCT.org and develop other content (podcasts, videos) on a regular basis.

**Requirements:**

- Identify as a peer to youth/young adults with lived experience with mental illness and/or substance misuse
- Trained as Recovery Support Specialist or Recovery Coach
- Strong personal interest in advocacy
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills

**Apply:** Submit cover letter and resume to Margaret Watt at [mwatt@positivedirections.org](mailto:mwatt@positivedirections.org). No calls, please.

*About Positive Directions: Positive Directions—The Center for Prevention & Counseling, is a nonprofit behavioral health organization located in Westport, CT. Positive Directions provides mental health and substance misuse services, including prevention, treatment, and recovery. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. We actively seek and value diversity in our hires.*